

Policy and Public Affairs: Advocacy and Government


Statewide Self-Advocacy Network
Meeting

December 6, 2018

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Director, Policy and Public Affairs



Presentation Goals


- ▶ General Outline of Legislative Process in State and Federal Government
 - ▶ State Council's Legislative Priorities for 2019 – 2020
 - ▶ SSAN's Role in the State Council's Policy and Public Affairs Operations
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United States Congress vs. California State Legislature

▶ U.S. Congress

- House of Representatives - 435 Members (with 53 California Members)
- Senate - 100 Members (with 2 state-wide Members from each state)

▶ CA State Legislature


- Assembly – 80 Members
 - Senate – 40 Members
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Overview of the Legislative Process

The process of the federal or state government by which bills are considered and laws enacted is commonly referred to as the **Legislative Process.**


Basic Steps of the Legislative Process

Step 1: All legislation begins as an idea. Ideas for legislation can come from a variety of sources, but a Member of Congress or of the CA State Legislature must be the one to introduce the bill. The idea becomes a bill once introduced.



Basic Steps of the Legislative Process


Step 2: The idea for the bill is sent to Legislative Counsel who drafts it in the proper bill format. The draft of the bill is returned to the Member's office for introduction. It is given a bill number at introduction.



Basic Steps of the Legislative Process

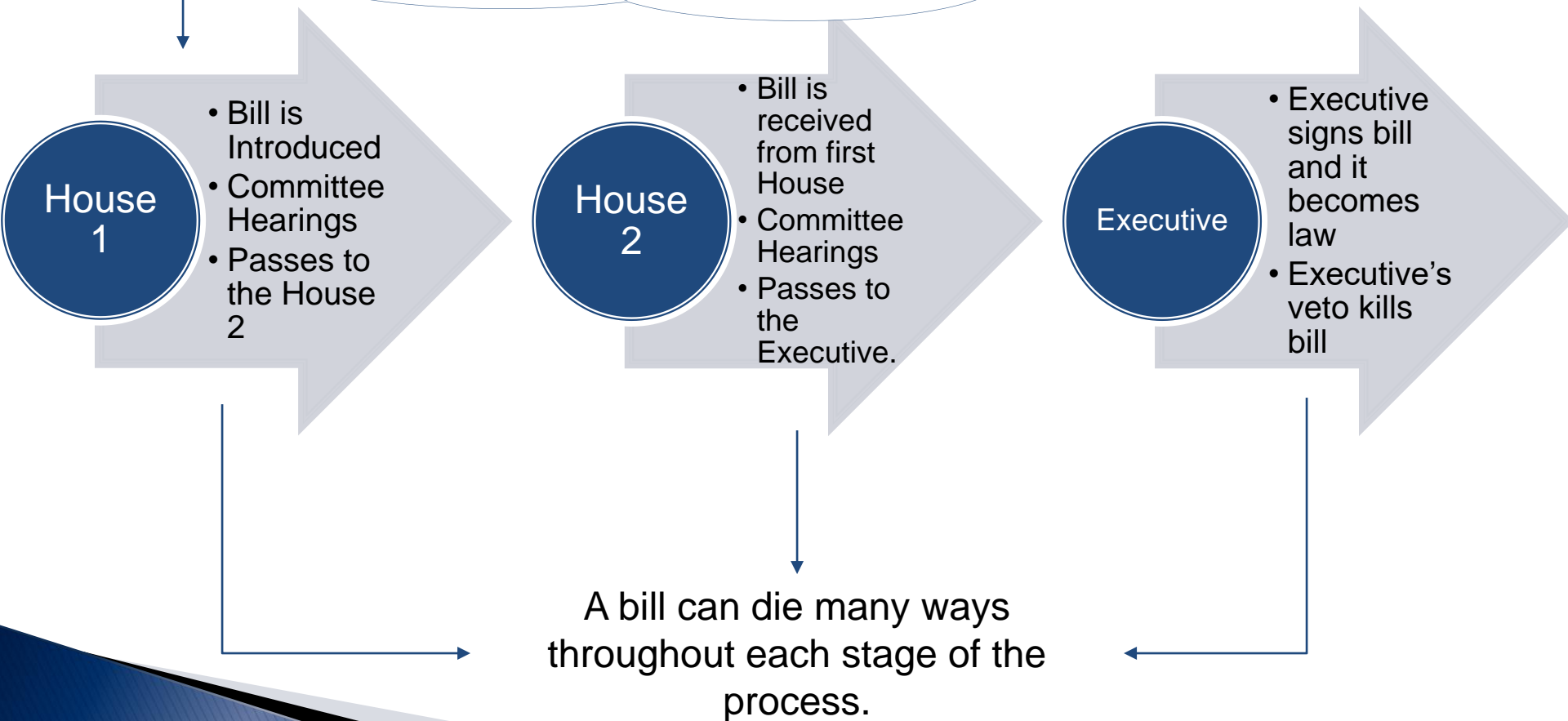
Step 3: After a series of readings, hearings, changes (known as amendments), the bill will move from Committees to the Floor, and ultimately to the Executive Branch for the President or Governor to sign.

Bills are voted on at each stage of the process and can die at anytime.




Legislation

Ideas and Suggestions from agencies, citizens, government executives, legislators, or lobbyists.



Federal Legislation

There are two types of federal legislation.

1. Authorizing legislation that creates or revises current federal policies or programs.
 2. Appropriations legislation that funds the federal government and its programs.
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Federal Legislation

- ▶ SCDD cannot take a position on federal legislation that is different than the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD).
- ▶ SCDD expresses its position through NACDD. NACDD is the lobbyist that represents all Councils with the U.S. Congress and the federal agencies.
- ▶ NACDD decides its policy agenda and positions based on two Board of Director approved agendas and the input of NACDD's Public Policy Committee.
- ▶ SCDD serves on NACDD's Public Policy Committee and provides input to NACDD through the Policy Committee.
- ▶ SCDD's role is to educate Members of Congress on the issues that NACDD has taken a position based on requests from NACDD.


State Legislation

- ▶ SCDD cannot work on policy issues that are not directly related to SCDD's approved state plan.
- ▶ SCDD also has a Council approved legislative platform that serves as the foundation for SCDD's policy activities.
- ▶ SCDD decides its policy priorities based on input from SCDD's Employment First Committee (EFC) and Legislation and Public Policy Committee (LPPC). The EFC and LPPC provide recommendations to the Council to approve for SCDD's positions.
- ▶ The Council approved its priorities for 2019-2020 in September.
- ▶ At times between meetings, SCDD's Chair uses delegated authority to take positions between Council meetings when timing necessitates an immediate decision.


Federal vs. State (1 / 6)

- ▶ The Member of Congress who introduces the bill is the sponsor of the bill. Other Members of Congress from the same Chamber are known as co-sponsors.
 - ▶ In the California Legislature, the Member who introduces the bill is known as the author. Additional members who support the bill are known as co-authors.
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Federal vs. State (2 / 6)

- ▶ There are specific deadlines for each step of the California legislative process. If a bill does not meet each deadline, the bill dies.
 - ▶ In the U.S. Congress, a bill only dies at the end of the two-year session. There are no other deadlines for when an authorizing bill must move through the legislative process.
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Federal vs. State (3 / 6)

- ▶ The President does not have a line-item veto for any type of bill. He can veto the entire bill or sign the bill.
 - ▶ The Governor can veto specific items in the budget using a line item veto.
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Federal vs. State (4/6)

- ▶ Funding for programs supported by the federal or state government run on different calendars.
 - ▶ The Legislative calendar runs on the calendar year for both California and the federal government.
 - ▶ The federal fiscal year is from October 1 - September 30. The state fiscal year is from July 1 - June 30.
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Federal vs. State (5 / 6)

- ▶ In the U.S. Congress, a bill does not have to be successfully voted out of one Chamber before moving forward in the legislative process. A bill can move at the same time through the House of Representatives and U.S Senate.
 - ▶ In California, bills move through the Chamber they are introduced in before moving to the other Chamber.
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Federal vs. State (6 / 6)

- ▶ The U.S. Congress does not take public comment at hearings. Opinions and viewpoints on legislation is conveyed through outreach to offices in advance of informational hearings and mark-ups of bills.
 - ▶ The CA State Legislature does take public comment from concerned individuals during hearings. Hearings in California are also where changes to the bills are made.
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SCDD's 2019 Legislative Priorities


1. Self-Advocacy
 2. Housing
 3. Formal and Informal Supports
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How does SCDD Categorize State Legislation?


- ▶ Support (With or Without Amendments)
 - ▶ Watch
 - ▶ Oppose
 - ▶ No Position
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SCDD's Public Policy Operations

It is critical that the Council Members and Staff are speaking with one voice to all offices throughout California for informing and advocating with elected officials to be effective.



SSAN's Role in SCDD's Public Policy Operations

- ▶ You cannot tell people, including elected or public officials, you represent the SCDD while discussing public policy.
 - ▶ SSAN is a project of SCDD and therefore cannot lobby. You cannot ask on behalf of SSAN or SCDD for a member to take a particular action on a bill.
 - ▶ You can meet with elected or public officials and ask for them to take a position or action as a private citizen.
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How Do I Find My Member?

- ▶ Official website for information activities of the U.S. Congress is at <https://www.congress.gov/> (also to track bills and know daily proceedings)
- ▶ U.S. House of Representative's Directory:
<https://www.house.gov/representatives>
- ▶ U.S. Senate Directory:
https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm


How Do I Find My Member?

- ▶ Official website for information activities of CA State Legislature is at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/> (also to track bills and know daily proceedings)
- ▶ California State Senate Directory:
<https://www.senate.ca.gov/>
- ▶ California State Assembly Directory:
<https://www.assembly.ca.gov/>
- ▶ Find Your Legislator is at:
http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators_and_districts.htm

Meeting with an Elected or Government Official

- ▶ Do some background research on the Member's website to see what might be of interest to them.
 - ▶ If you can thank the Member for something he or she has recently done that you support to start the meeting.
 - ▶ Make it clear that you see the Member as a partner in ensuring people with disabilities can learn, work, live in the community etc.
 - ▶ Take timing cues from the Member or their staff. Meeting with staff is equally important as meeting with the Member themselves.
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Meeting with an Elected or Government Official

- ▶ Be early, and do not take it personally if you or others have to wait for the meeting to start. Be prepared to meet anywhere.
 - ▶ If multiple people are attending the meeting, prepare in advance for who is going to cover what talking points in the meeting.
 - ▶ Go into a meeting with no more than 2-3 topics of discussion. Share both stories and data.
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Meeting with an Elected or Government Official

- ▶ Follow-up with the office is just as or more important than the meeting. After the meeting send a thank you email, and any additional information that you promised to send to them.

Exercise

We would like you to practice having a meeting with an elected official!

- ▶ You will be broken up into 4 groups.
- ▶ You will be educating California Assembly Member Jones on the importance of public transportation for the the I/DD community.
 - Think about what public transportation means to you. How do you use it? What are barriers do you face in using it? Do others face the same barriers? What solutions do you have to the barriers?
- ▶ You will have 10 minutes to prepare your presentation to Assembly Member Jones.
- ▶ SCDD staff will pretend to be Assembly Member Jones.
- ▶ You will then have 5 minutes to try out what you learned by meeting with Senator Jones to explain why public transportation is important to the I/DD community.

Exercise Feedback and Staff Demonstration